

TOKYO ASAHI - 17 Nov. 1941

War Minister TOJO and Navy Minister SHIMADA reported the progress of Army and Navy operations since April at the plenary sessions on the 16th of the House of Peers and House of Representatives.

Speech of the Navy Minister

Position of Complete Blockade
40. Continuous Air-raids on Chungking.

Our Imperial Naval forces operating in China are, in close co-operation with the Army forces, making efforts to achieve the object of Holy War by fighting heroically and overcoming many difficulties over vast areas.

Operations in the YANGTZE River Area.

Operations in the area, from the mouth of the Yangtze-River to the upper reaches, approximately 800 miles, and its connecting water routes, aims chiefly at the security of safety on the YANGTZE River. Not only are they endeavoring to sweep mines and other obstacles in the important waters, but also in the destruction of active enemy forces in the area by carrying out frequent positive operation with the aid of vessels, naval landing parties, and air forces. One of the important was that in mid-September when the HUNAN operation was carried out in cooperation with the Army forces in which they were engaged in aerial operations, opening water-routes, guiding Army forces, and the occupation of Yingtien and other strategic points by naval landing parties, all of which had great results. The operations of the forces on the YANGTZE River was extremely quiet, and furthermore, operations which were difficult and dangerous were many, such as the disposal of mines. However, the mission was very important in the maintenance of war supply lines of operation forces, and the securing of traffic safety on the YANGTZE River, and did not permit the slightest negligence. The officers and men of the forces on the YANGTZE River are incessantly carrying on this task by overcoming various difficulties.

Coast Blockade Operation

The coast blockade operation is to cut off the enemy's marine traffic along the 2800 miles of the entire China Coast line and also to engage in various operations along the coast connected therewith, and the units are continuously exerting themselves to strengthen the blockade by keeping a vigilant lookout over the sea and by attacking positively the enemy bases for imports and exports of goods and other important points.

To be more particular, early in March surprise attacks upon several strategic points on the coast of the Kwantung Province were made in co-operation with the Army, and in April an occupation campaign on Fuchow was enforced and surprise landings at Chonhai, Ningpo and several other strategic points on the coast of Chekiang Province was carried out. All of these operations completely destroyed the enemy bases and obtained great results.

During this year, landing operations of this type were made at no less than twenty-six large and small places, and thus it is endeavored to complete the coast blockade. The blockading forces are performing their duties with dogged perseverance in the face of intense heat and bitter cold and battling with the winds and waves.

The Operation of the Air Forces.

Operations are continuously being carried on by our air forces nearly all over China, the chief ones of which are attacks on the Burma Road and other south-western transportation roads and strategic points; the centers in the interior of the Chungking area; and on such strategic points in the northwestern China as Lanchow and Hsian, etc; all of which are repeatedly being carried on with great difficulty. In the Chungking area, in particular, frequent attacks have been made since May. And among these, such as those in the middle of August, where with a large force, during a week severe bombing was carried on day and night forty times in succession and completely blew up the enemy's military establishments and other nuclear organs and threw the enemy into a wretched plight. Now that the small remaining enemy air force has almost fled into the interior with no fight left, our forces have entirely regained the command of the air.

Other Operations.

Besides these operations mentioned above, in Hainan Island frequent large-scale mopping-up operations were carried out with the complete destruction of the headquarters of the enemy bandits who had been active in the northeastern district, and great favorable results have been attained, indicating remarkable improvements of public peace on the island. The above-mentioned summarizes the operations of our Imperial Navy in China. Moreover, in connection with these operations, our Imperial Navy units, as you already know, advanced into South French Indo-Chine in the latter part of July, and these units are making strenuous efforts to exalt our military prestige in a land of extreme heat and epidemics.

Now the Chiang Kai-shek army has almost lost their fighting spirit because of our operations as mentioned above and of their domestic impoverishment and exhaustion and is lingering out a feeble existence. (Then he / the Navy Minister / declared his determination as in another article.)

Let me take this opportunity to thank you, on behalf of all the Navy officers and men, for your enthusiastic support to the whole Navy.

Navy Minister SHIMADA declares his determination:

"The international situation has now at last become acute; the Empire is on the eve of coming face to face with an unprecedentedly serious crisis. I feel keenly that the responsibility of the Imperial Navy is truly heavy. Officers and men, as one, in real earnest, are resolutely determined to exert themselves to the utmost to set at rest the mind of the Supreme Commander, the Emperor, who is above them and at the same time to live up to the expectations of the whole body of their fellow countrymen."

War Minister TOJO's declaration:

"From Manchuria in the North to French Indo-China in the South, the Imperial Forces stationed throughout the vast area of East Asia are endeavoring both to bring the Chiang Kai-shek faction to submission and to establish the East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere. Standing immovable as a rock with discipline growing ever stricter, exhibiting their valour and prestige to those at home and to foreigners, their preparations are completed to be able to cope immediately with whatever international crisis they may meet." (Applause) . . . (portion omitted) . . . "The gravity of the present situation is indeed, I am convinced, beyond words. The whole army, in view of this, bringing to perfection its material and spiritual fighting strength, is resolved to bring repose to the Imperial Mind above and at the same time respond to the enthusiasm of the people behind the guns."

CERTIFICATE

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, SAKAMOTO Izumi hereby certify that I am officially connected with the ASAHI SHIMBUN in the following capacity: Chief of The Investigation Section and that as such official I have custody of the document hereto attached consisting of 1 pages, and described as follows: EXCERPTS FROM THE ASAHI SHIMBUN, dated Nov. 17, 1941. I further certify that the attached photostatic document is copied from the original publication which is in the archives and files of the ASAHI SHIMBUN, TOKYO.

Signed at Tokyo on this

17th day of November, 1947 /s/ I. Sakamoto
Signature of Official
SEAL

Witness: /s/ T. Watanabe Chief of the
Investigation Section
Official Capacity

Statement of Official Procurement

I, HENRY SHIMOJIMA, hereby certify that I am associated with the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, and that the above certification was obtained by me from the above signed official of the ASAHI SHIMBUN in the conduct of my official business.

Signed at Tokyo on this

17th day of November, 1947 /s/ Henry Shimojima
NAME

Witness: J. F. Munroe /s/ INVESTIGATOR, IPS
Official Capacity

危局動脈通便全シ
國海兩相全章ノ済意記詞

東條、鷹田は深日向ハ十六日ノ貴、衆議院ノ本會議
四月以後ノ上海萬華ノ作戦ノ如ニツイテ報告ヲナ
シ、ツツイテ兩院トモ既証ヲ以シテ皇軍將兵ニ對ス
ル懲罰ト威歎行兵ニ對スル敵弔済証ヲ行ツタ、東條
監相ハコノ監視報告ノ中テ從深ノ皇ガラ既シテ信
ニ現在ノ國際情勢ニ言及シ「今ヤ時局ノ重大性ハマ
サニ言語ニ犯シテイルト由ジタ後トイカナル日本
軍艦ニ處スルモコレニ御慮シ得ル通便ハ完了シタ
トノ力記イ済意ヲ既カニシム。鷹田監相ハ監視報告
ノ中テハ特ニ現下ノ時局ニ言及シナカツタモノノ福
院ノ懲罰済証ニ據ヘタ言ノナカテ監相同様、現下
ノ微妙ナル情勢ニ言及シ「今ヤ國際情勢ハイヨイヨ
急迫シ帝國へ正ニ示す有ノ重大時局ニ亘面シ帝國海
軍ノ實力真ニ重大ナルヲ御慮シテイルト述べ、福
軍部大臣又々現下ノ微妙ナ國際情勢ヲ暗示シ全臣海
軍ノ済意ヲ強調シタ。兩院ハコノ兩相ノハ言ニ蒙シ
テ通便破ル、ハカリノ招手ヲモツテ既ヘ、兩相ハ試
會後鷹田副社ニ参拜シテ儀山ノ大典ニ兩院ノ済証ヲ

報告スルナド、臨時議會ハ本議的試験ニナホハイ
ラナイ議會勢頭ニシテ早クモ現下ノ情勢ヲ反映シ
タ真剣ナハマタ急迫シタ海上氣氛ミナギツタコト
ハ榮ニ印紙的テアツ々。

兩相ノ發言ハ次ノ如リテアカル。

東條臣相 北ハ眞誠、南ハ仰印、東豆ノ重大ナル
地位ニ國正セヨリダ皇室ヘ威介石御正義ノタメ
努力スルト共ニ東豆共榮國體立ノ爲義石不動ノ
意勢ヲトツテ重紀イヨイヨ以正國武ヲ田外ニ示
シ、イカナル國際尊徳ニ驅スルモ俗ニコソニ行
慶シ得ル運氣ヲ完了シテイル（握手）・・・
中略・・・今ヤ時局ノ重大性ハマサニ言語ニ見
シテイカト信ズガ、全豆事ハコヽニ全々有形無
形ノ以力ヲ充實シ上議院ヲ公シジ擧ルト共ニ下
議院ノ無議ニ係ヘンコトヲ期シテキル。

佐藤内相 今ヤ國体尊勢ハイヨイヨ急迫シ帝國ハ
正ニ示吾有ノ重大時局ニ亘山シ帝國體立ノ實務
事ニ重大ナルヲ痛感シテキル、新兵一同イヨイ
ヨ汗心ノ誠ヲイタシ上大元帥以下ノ氣節ヲ安シ
ジ奉ルト共ニ下全国民ノ期待ニ沿フコトヲ國ク
決意シテキル。

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AOC

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「ワシントン」文書局 気
國際法 審部 部 第三二九一號ノB

眞誠及ビ公正ニスル證候
余、日本イツミハ余方下記ノ資格ニ於テ、已チ証
查部長トシテ、同日新舊ト公的關係ニ在ルモノナ
ルコト、並ニ該職員トシテ宗方玄ニ添附セラレタ
ル、一頁ヨリ反ル、千九百四十七年ノ昭和十六年
ノ十一月十七日附、下記通り、已チ朝日新聞ヨリ
ノ接奉ノ文書ノ保管ニ任シ居ルコトヲ茲ニ證明ス。
余ハ更ニ添附ノ眞爲眞文書方真發行紙ヨリノ信
寫ナルコト、右方東京朝日新聞ノ公式標幟及ビ
ノ一部ナルコトヲ茲既ス。

千九百四十七年ノ昭和二十二年ノ十一月十七日

東京ニ於テ誓仁

當該職員署名
日本イツミ
石ノ岩ノ公的資格
證人 謂五
謹此呈上。

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公式入手ニタルスル證明

余、下馬ヘシリハ、余ガ此會國政府諮詢官司
會部ニ臨候アルモノナルコト、並ニ上記姓名ノ
文書ハ余ガ公報上、朝日新聞ノ上記署名眞實ヨ
リ入手シタルモノナルコトヲ茲ニ證明ス。

一千九百零七年／昭和二十二年／十一月十七日

東京ニ於テ署名

氏名　下馬ヘンリ

石哲ノ公的資格　I・P・S 謝文官

證人　ジェイ・エフ・マンロウ

3-291-B

AOC

ASAHI SHIMBUN - 17 Nov. 1941

Preparations Complete to Meet the Critical Situation

Both War and Navy Ministers lay Stress on the Determination of the Whole Army and Navy.

At the plenary session of both the House of Peers and the House of Representatives on the 15th, both War and Navy Ministers TŌJŌ and SHIMADA reported on the progress of military and naval operations since April. Then, both Houses decided by a parliamentary decision to express gratitude to the officers and men of the Imperial Army and Navy and respect and condolence to the war dead. In his report on the war situation, War Minister TŌJŌ, breaking the customary form heretofore accepted, specially referred to the present international situation, and declared that "the gravity of the situation is now indeed beyond description." He then continued to express his determination that "whatever turning point in the international situation may confront us, preparations to meet it are fully complete." Though Navy Minister SHIMADA did not refer to the present situation in his report on the war situation, he, as the War Minister did, mentioned the present delicate situation in his speech responding to the Houses' vote of gratitude as follows: "The international situation is becoming more and more tense now, and Japan is facing an unprecedented grave situation. I keenly feel the exceedingly great responsibility of the Imperial Navy." As above, both Ministers of military affairs hinted, one after another, at the present delicate international situation and emphasized the determination of the whole Army and Navy. Both Houses responded to their speeches with a storm of hand-clapping from all the members. After the adjournment, both Ministers paid homage at the Yasukuni Shrine and reported the decision of both Houses to the guardian spirits of the country. And it was especially impressive that the Extraordinary Diet was filled with a serious and tense atmosphere, already reflecting the present situation at the outset of the session even before the opening of the regular proceedings.

The speeches of the two Ministers are as follows:

War Minister TŌJŌ: "The Imperial Army, stationed in the vast area of East Asia, from Manchuria in the north to French Indo-China in the south, is making efforts to subjugate the Chiang Kai-shek party, and at the same time is standing firm as a rock to establish the East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere. The discipline of the Army is all the more strict, and the influence of the Army is manifested both at home and abroad. And whatever turning point in the international situation may confront us, we are fully prepared to meet it."

(Applause) - - - - -

I believe that now the gravity of the situation is truly beyond description. The whole Army is, at this time, anticipating the increasing

replenishment of material and spiritual fighting power and hopes to set the Emperor's mind at peace on one hand, while on the other, to respond to the enthusiasm of the home front.'

Navy Minister SHIMADA: 'The international situation is now becoming more and more tense and Japan is indeed facing an unprecedented grave situation. I keenly feel the exceedingly great responsibility of the Imperial Navy. All officers and men are firmly determined to set His Majesty's heart at ease on the one hand and, on the other, to meet the whole nation's expectations by exerting themselves diligently.'

C E R T I F I C A T E

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Signed at Tokyo on this

17th day of November, 1947

/s/ I. Sakamoto
Signature of Official

SEAL

Witness: /s/ T. Watanabe

CHIEF OF THE
INVESTIGATION SECTION
Official Capacity

Statement of Official Procurement

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Signed at Tokyo on this

17th day of November, 1947

/s/ Henry Shimojima
NAME

Witness: /s/ J.F. Monroe

INVESTIGATOR, IPS
Official Capacity